



SURRY COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Surry County
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The Surry Farmers Market



The Surry Farmers Market will provide access to fresh and healthy goods while providing a vehicle to local producers to market their farm-produced goods. The Market will have a single

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Message from the County Administrator

“A Rural Food Desert” that is the classification the United States Department of Agriculture has given to Surry County. What does this actually mean? Well, it means that at least 500 people, or more, than 33% of the County's census tract population resides more than ten miles from a conventional grocery store.



As you are aware, Surry County has been without a conventional grocery store for quite some time, despite County efforts to position itself to take full advantage of a retail development. The County continues to receive unfavorable scores from retail development firms for our inability to meet population density requirements. Most grocery stores look for communities that have 8,000-10,000 people within a 2-3 mile radius. Unfortunately, Surry County cannot meet this requirement at this time. However, a recent retail marketplace profile for grocery retail has determined that Surry County has a \$10 million dollar demand and a supply of only \$2 million dollars; essentially leaving a \$8 million dollar retail gap. One would think that figure alone would be incentive enough to encourage retail development. The county will continue to pursue this much needed, yet ever elusive, community asset. Should a retail developer show interest in Surry County as the location for a conventional grocery store, the Board of Supervisors is motivated and prepared to act aggressively to secure this opportunity.

I am very excited about the Board's recent approval of The Surry Farmers Market, as it will provide our citizens with access to fresh and healthy produce, meats, dairy products, and more; while also providing an outlet for retail producers of agricultural products to sell directly to the consumer.

Tyrone W. Franklin

Meet our Staff: Surry County Building Inspections



The **Surry County Building Inspections Office** is responsible to ensure that all buildings constructed in the County conform to safely and health requirements as mandated by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. The office accepts permit applications, reviews applications for compliance and issues permits for the proposed work. Site visits are performed at various stages of completion to ensure that construction proceeds in compliance with approved plans and that structural, electrical, mechanical and plumbing work is compliant with applicable code

requirements. The department issues a certificate of occupancy after successful completion of construction.

Surry County utilizes the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. This document is produced by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development and is based on the International Code Council (ICC). The current edition of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code is the 2009 edition; this and the ICC model codes are linked to the County Government website at:

<http://www.surrycountyva.gov/departments/building-inspections/>.

The Surry Farmers Market (cont'd)

point of sale for SNAP/credit/debit card purchases from multiple vendors. SNAP benefits can be used to purchase meat and dairy products, fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, canned goods, and baked goods.

The Market will include nutritional education and cooking demonstrations through Surry County Cooperative Extension and other contributing agencies. Fun family activities will be planned for market dates and performing artists will be scheduled to entertain.

Conducting the Market on Friday afternoons will enable shoppers to patronize more than one local market.

Anyone interested in participating in The Surry Farmers Market as a vendor, performing artist or volunteer should contact the Surry County Administrator's Office at 757-294-5271 for more information.

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<https://www.facebook.com/SurryCountyVa>

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!



Commencement exercises for the Surry County High School
Graduating Class of 2015
will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015
at the L.P.J. Middle School at 10:00am.

Rehabilitation of Homes on Lebanon Road

Surry County applied for a Comprehensive Improvement Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) in the amount of \$1,057,000 to support housing and infrastructure improvements along Lebanon Road from the Town of Surry limits to the intersection of Lebanon Road and Rocky Bottom Road. The submittal resulted in a six month effort to complete full evaluations of the housing repair needs of income eligible property owners, assessments of well and septic systems of properties in the study area and preliminary engineering estimates to extend water and sewer utilities in the area to service households without current access to these public utility services. Funding decisions will be made after July 1, 2015. If the grant application is funded, the county anticipates being able to extend water utility services in the study area and fund the rehabilitation of twelve residences. A second application to fund the rehabilitation of an additional eighteen units and to extend sewer utility service is anticipated in a later application funding period.

This effort has received the support of the Surry County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Tyrone W. Franklin, County Administrator, Mr. Jason Weidel, Project Manager, Sussex-Surry Habitat for Humanity, Mr. Bill Watkins, Warm & Cozy, Inc., Mr. Robert Smallwood, ABA Well & Septic, Mr. Jim McClure, Crater Planning District Commission, Mr. Darrell Rickmond, P.E., Ms. Frances Bailey, Project Coordinator/ Surry County, and members of the Lebanon Road Area Project Management Team- Mr. John Newby, Mr. Lynn & Mrs. Harriet Ruffin, Mr. Charlie Davis, and Mrs. Sonia Beatty. Additionally, Mr. Matt Weaver of VDHCD has assisted Surry County staff in navigating and troubleshooting error messages with the CAMS electronic platform required for the submittal of grant applications, which has successfully resulted in the timely submittal of the grant application.

April 2015 is Surry County Clean-Up Month

The Surry County Board of Supervisors has designated April 2015 as “SURRY COUNTY CLEAN-UP MONTH”. Citizens are asked to clean up, spruce up, and beautify their properties and the roadsides of the county during the month. In an effort to help, the County’s solid waste collection crews will provide special refuse collection containers at specific locations and times for citizens to dispose of appliances, furniture, yard debris, and scrap building material. For more information, visit the County’s website at www.surrycountyva.gov.

If your household is not already involved in recycling, now is a great time to start! The County’s recycling program currently accepts paper, glass, plastics (#1 & #2), along with steel, tin and aluminum cans. These items can be dropped off at the Goodson Path and Pineview Collection Stations during regular operating hours. (7am—7pm M-F; 8am—4pm Sat & Sun) All items should be rinsed clean; please do not include bottle and jar caps as these are NOT recyclable. Recyclable electronic devices may be dropped off at the Goodson Path, Pineview, and Mantura Collection sites only. Please call 757-294-5271, or go to: www.surrycountyva.gov/departments/public-works/recycling- for a complete listing of recyclable electronics.

Bacon’s Castle 350th Anniversary



Bacon’s Castle, or the Arthur Allen Brick House, was built in 1665 and is the only surviving example of Jacobean architecture in British North America. It is also the oldest existing brick dwelling in Virginia. And it is right here in the heart of Surry County!

In 2015 **Bacon’s Castle** celebrates its 350th Anniversary. If you have never visited the Castle, or have not visited lately, you are welcome to come and celebrate the anniversary this year.

The Jamestown-Scotland Ferry System Celebrates 90 Years of Service



The **Jamestown-Scotland Ferry System** recently celebrated 90 years of service connecting Surry County to the Williamsburg/James City County area.

The first automobile ferry crossing of the James River was aboard the *Captain John Smith* on February 26, 1925. Captain Albert Jester was the first ferry captain and operated the ferry system until its transfer to the Virginia Department of Transportation in 1945, making it the only 24-hour state-operated ferry in the Commonwealth of Virginia which operates seven days per week.

On March 17, 2015 VDOT held a ceremony at the Jamestown Settlement in celebration of the Ferry System's 90 year anniversary. Following festivities in James City County, a

ceremonial crossing brought officials and guests to Surry County to a reception at the Surry County Historical Society. Here, guests were able to view the ongoing reconstruction of the *Captain John Smith* deck-house which has been made possible through grant funding and action of the Surry County Board of Supervisors.

The Jamestown/Scotland Ferry System transports more than 900,000 vehicles and an estimated million plus passengers across the James River each year.

Celebrating 90 Years . . .



**of bringing
people to
Surry!**



**Plan your
visit to
Surry County today at:
www.surrycountytourism.com**

Surry County Administrative Office
45 School Street
P.O. Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Calendar of Events

April 1 - April Fool's Day

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 11 - Clean-Up Day

April 15 - Tax Day

April 22 - Earth Day / Admin. Professionals Day

April 25 - Clean-Up Day

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 25 - Memorial Day *

June 10 - Surry Nuclear Siren test

June 21 - Father's Day / First Day of Summer

* County Offices Closed

Submissions

If you wish to submit news or corrections, please provide the information to the Surry County Administrative Office by calling 294-5271.

